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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JAN 27 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CIA RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM D

SUBJECT: Scope Cotton Decision No. 21.

Reference: Presentation to DNRO on December 16, 1968 Concerning  
Optional Levels of Continued Operation of [redacted]

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As a result of the referenced presentation and other considerations,  
the following guidance applies:

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2. The TAGBOARD program will continue [redacted] until mid-February  
1969, then transfer to Beale AFB, remaining under NRO management.

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3. Limited operations will continue [redacted] thru June 30, 1969, in  
support of Air Force, CIA, and NRP projects, as appropriate. The SR-71  
aircraft is considered to be an Air Force project in this connection. The  
Air Force and NRP projects are subject to the specific advance approval of  
the DNRO.

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5. Subsequent to June 30, 1969, for the foreseeable future [redacted]  
will continue as a National Asset providing a limited air base operation,  
and [redacted] to be contracted and operated by CIA.

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The basic effort will be in accordance with the assumptions in the presented  
Posture III, with one-third equal cost-sharing by each of the Air Force, CIA  
and NRP. Projects requiring support beyond this basic effort may be accom-  
modated, provided that the using customer agrees to pay the appropriate costs.

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[redacted]  
NRO review(s)  
completed.

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6. The level of capability which is to be maintained beyond Posture III will be redetermined semi-annually on the basis of project activities then underway and planned for the ensuing six-month period.

7. All Air Force and NRP projects for use [redacted] will be subject to the specific advance approval of the DNRO. [redacted]

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8. The Director, Program D, will be responsible for coordinating and recommending for approval, any Air Force project for use [redacted] including specific fund citations, [redacted]

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ALEXANDER H. FLAX  
Director

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